

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 8 September 2005. It was the 205th regularly scheduled meeting since the Council was established in 1973.

1. Members present/absent and advisors and guests present were:

MEMBERS (Army Retiree, except as indicated)

PRESENT

COL Bob Bunting, Co-Chair	CSM Charles E. Frye, Co-Chair
COL Charles A. Block (USMC)	CSM William Jolly
COL Herman S. Heath	SGM Lloyd M. Rogers, Secretary
LTC James R. Mellish	MSG John J. McCracken, Jr. (USAF)

MEMBERS ABSENT

COL William E. Crouch	CSM James W. Harris
COL James E. Hyer	SGM William Baker
CDR James E. Cobb (USN)	SGM Sam MacMaster
Ms. Erika Johnson (Widow)	1SG Jackie Ray

ADVISORS PRESENT

Ms. Martha Frausto, USAAMC
Mr. Kevin Carver, AG
Mr. Mike O'Meara, Commissary
Mr. Tim Laster, MWR
Mr. Will Newman, outgoing RSO
Mr. Chris Moore, incoming RSO

2. COL Bunting called the meeting to order at 1130.
3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.
4. Old Business - It was reported that funds were made available to print the Fort Rucker Retiree Bulletin; therefore the RAD will proceed as scheduled.
5. Committee Reports.
 - a. Public Affairs - SGM MacMasters, although absent, provided a calendar of PAO

coverage. It was noted that none of the scheduled Equestrian Center activities, past or present, had been listed. The RAD scheduled for 28-29 October was not listed; it had been replaced with the Enterprise Fall Festival.

b. Legislative Affairs - COL Block reported that two congressmen were proposing bills that would place a cap on some military retiree benefits, i.e., TRICARE for Life, TRICARE Senior Pharmacy, etc. but would exempt Social Security for federal employees. He also recommended contacting Senator Warner of Virginia urging the withdrawal of an amendment which would require an additional study of the DIC/SBP offset. The added study would delay any further action until the next session of Congress.

c. Health Care - No report.

d. Volunteers Program - Ms Johnson sent a report stating the Adult Volunteer of the Month for August was Ms. Melissa Harmer and the youth was Geoffrey Babb. They will be recognized at the Post Theater on 13 September.

e. Consolidated Club System - COL Block reported, in July the Club lost over \$20K, although the losses are less than at this time last year. The utility bills will now be paid from MACOM money rather than club money. Upcoming events include: a hunting and fishing exposition at Yano Hall on 10 September, prime rib night on 24 September, and Oktoberfest on 30 September.

f. Commissary - Mr. O'Meara reported the case lot sale will be on 15-16 September and extras were purchased due to the closings of the Keesler and Gulfport commissaries. The storm has caused shortages with coffee being the primary. Proctor & Gamble experienced damage to one of their main storage warehouses in New Orleans. Some bread items that come from Mobile have also been affected. The commissary at Keesler was heavily damaged and the one at Gulfport also received damage but repairs to it are underway. The commissary in New Orleans was not damaged but it was surrounded by water.

g. PX - It was reported that there were problems with the cigarette sales at the PX.

h. Golf Course - COL Heath reported the Pro-Am is scheduled for 24 September.

i. Equestrian Center - COL Heath reported the year's last open Horse Show is scheduled for 8 October starting at 1000. Horse trials are scheduled for 15-16 October but entries will probably be down due to high gas prices and the storm effects along the gulf coast. Lack of publicity about equestrian events by the Fort Rucker Public Affairs Office hurts the local economy because these events increase the number of in out of town visitors.

j. Outdoor Recreation - Mr. Laster reported there were 25 vendors for the Hunting and Fishing Expo to be held at Yano Hall including an archery exhibition and an individual to discuss deep sea fishing.

k. Bowling Alley - No report.

l. RAD - LTC Mellish reported the 2005 RAD preparations were on track and asked for a list of council members available to work during then.

6. Advisors Comments -

a. Ms. Frausto reported coffee would be available along with bake sale items for the RAD. She provided no assurance regarding the availability of flu vaccines.

b. Mr. Laster apologized to the Council for the lack of a meeting room for the regularly scheduled council on 1 September. He mentioned the Army Family Action Plan Conference scheduled for 25–26 October to be held at the Aviators Landing. The golf course still needs more amateurs for the Pro-Am Tournament. The cost is \$100 for non-members and \$90 for members. The “Military Idol” contest is continuing Friday nights in the Dawn Patrol Lounge.

c. Mr. Carver introduced Mr. Chris Moore who is replacing Mr. Newman as Retirement Services Officer.

7. New Business - The advisors were excused and the Council conducted the following new business.

a. COL Block asked for a listing of volunteers to attend the Army Family Action Plan Conference on 25 - 26 October. He then read the following issues which were approved to be presented at the conference.

(1) Military retirees should be listed as “military personnel” in DOD regulations.

(2) Allow a surviving spouse to receive both SBP and DIC.

(3) Move paid up SBP from 2008 to 2005.

b. The Council recommended to the Garrison Commander that LTC (Ret) Ray Collins be appointed to the Retiree Council.

c. Co-Chairman’s Comments - COL Bunting reminded us that we are the Commanding General’s Retiree Council and are serving at the pleasure of the Commanding General in order to put to rest the talk of “free room” at the Landing.

d. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1245. The next scheduled meeting will be held at the Aviators Landing on 6 October 2005 at 1130.

Retiree Council Minutes, September 8, 2005

Approved via email 9 SEP 05

BOB BUNTING

COL, Retired

Co-Chairman

Approved via email 9 SEP 05

CHARLES E. FRYE

CSM, Retired

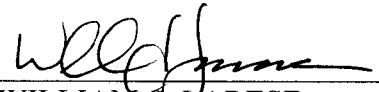
Co-Chairman

Approved via email 9 SEP 05

LLOYD M. ROGERS

SGM, Retired

Association Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William S. Larese', written over a horizontal line.

WILLIAM S. LARESE

COL, Aviation

Garrison Commander